

Department, clerk typists, secretaries, people that do the clean-up work would see it. So I was glad to see that change made. But if we keep it at an annual basis, then I guess I can go back to saying, well, every nursing home knows somewhere within the 90 day period before their license is up for renewal they can clean up their act. So I don't think I would go along with the committee amendments. And I'm not too concerned about the fiscal impact because I think there is more to be gained for the people if they are inspected more frequently. I remember when Governor, or, excuse me, President Reagan wanted to do away with all inspections of nursing homes unless there was a complaint against them. And, God knows, I have dealt with enough people, who have their loved ones in nursing homes, to know they were petrified to complain for fear they would be abused more or neglected more or thrown out. So I...I just think that really a semiannual investigation isn't that difficult to make. It doesn't cost that much money and the Health Department does have the money to do this. I think they have assumed additional duties this year saying it would cost them nothing to do it. I remember hearing a bill in one of our committees...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR HIGGINS: ...where the Health Department said, no, it's no problem for us to assume more duties on this particular bill, it's nothing. But I think if you think about the people in the nursing homes, and I think probably 95 or 90 percent of the nursing homes in Nebraska try to do a good job and do a good job, but I do believe that it would not hurt to have an inspector go through there twice a year because then there would be less chance of them knowing when it's time to clean up the act for those who do not deliver what they advertise, good quality care. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. On the committee amendments, Senator Withem, your light is on.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, I'm the sponsor of the bill. I, reluctantly, rise to support the committee amendments. I thought the semiannual inspections was a good idea. Because of the fiscal impact, we felt it would be difficult to get a bill passed with that. So I am agreeing to this amendment to allow the real heart of the bill to pass. And the real heart of the bill, Senator Higgins, is the portion of the bill that would state, in statute, what you tried to get done for five or six